

# **East Providence Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes**

September 17, 2013  
City Hall, East Providence  
7:30 PM

**Members present:** Lorraine Nik (Chair), John Rose (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes, John Burrige, Keith Gonsalves, and James Boyd (Secretary)

**Members Absent:** Marie Esten

**Public present:** None

**Call to Order** - Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:28 PM.

**Review of Minutes** - The Commission reviewed and approved the July 17 meeting minutes, as corrected, on a motion to approve by K. Gonsalves and seconded by J. Rose.

**Public Comment** - No public present

### **Planning Department Update**

- Omega Pond Fish Ladder - Wayne reported that the Army Corps of Engineers sent an email confirmation that the contractor was to begin work on the coffer dam on September 23. The Corps also stated that they were investigating a solution for fish passage below the Hunt's Mill dam. There's some rock ledge that may be modified to decrease the slope and allow a higher volume of fish passage up to the fish ladder.
- Hunt's Mill - Wayne reported that new interpretive signs have been installed at the Hunt's Mill property near the dam and fish ladder.
- FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) update - Wayne noted that on August 20 the City Council adopted the updated FIRMs and revised local flood plain ordinances.
- Turner Reservoir Trails - Wayne reported that RIDOT was surveying along the trails on the West side of the reservoir for possible trail improvements.

### **Correspondence**

- City law department memorandum - Wayne indicated that he will provide the memorandum on guidance for City elected and appointed officials regarding recusals at the next Commission meeting.

### **Old Business**

- Boyden Heights Boardwalk Stairway - The Commission scheduled a work day for October 5th and discussed the work plan for constructing the boardwalk access stairway.

### **New Business**

- City Right-of-Ways - The Planning Department has requested the Commission to consider overseeing the City ROWs and advising the Department and City Council, as necessary, especially for any recommendations for ROW improvements. The Commission discussed the

issue and has requested more information regarding any possible existing ordinance language that affects ROWs and their administration and oversight in the City. The Commission was interested in knowing any possible legal impediments or restrictions that may affect the Commission in undertaking this duty.

- Wampanoag Trail land donation - Wayne provided information regarding a potential land donation (Ianaculli property) to the City. This matter was raised several years ago and the property owner would still like the City to consider the donation of property to reduce tax liability. Upon discussion by the Commission, it was determined that the parcel to be donated provides no value to the City for connectivity to other nearby or abutting open space parcels or conservation areas. Further, the parcel donation would not enhance any new public access. Accordingly, the Commission determined that it had no interest in the donation and recommends that the City not accept the parcel.

### **Commission Member Items**

- J. Boyd noted that a presentation on the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM) project for East Providence would be scheduled on October 8 or 9. The project is evaluating the potential impacts to and responses of coastal wetlands from sea level rise around the state.

- 

### **Adjournment**

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 PM on a motion by J. Rose and seconded by J. Burrige.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 7:30 pm** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary